

***IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE***

Applicant: Lars BLANK, *et al.*

Title: METHOD OF IMPROVING  
BIOMASS YIELD OF LACTIC  
ACID BACTERIAL CULTURES

Appl. No.: 10/623,578

Filing Date: 7/22/2003

Examiner: Leon B. LANKFORD, JR.

Art Unit: 1651

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the final Office Action dated July 5, 2006, concerning the captioned application. This response is timely, by virtue of the accompanying petition and payment of the prescribed fees.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this document.